Objectional questions by crank callers at AIDS help line

648. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women counselors at the AIDS help line of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are up against crank callers who ask obscene questions in the name of sex counseling;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these counselors have complained that crank callers sometimes ask obscene and objectionable questions which they find difficult to handle; and

(c) if so, the action Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. Some male crank callers tend to ask irrelevant and objectionable questions.

(c) The AIDS Education and Training Cell of AIIMS which runs the helpline has taken the following steps:

- Warn these crank callers that police action will be taken against them;
- Install caller ID phone so that the phone numbers of the crank callers could be noted; and

After taking the above action number of obscene and crank calls have come down significantly.

Naturopathy and yoga

649. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up separate colleges to promote Naturopathy and Yoga in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the present status of the council for Naturopathy and Yoga; and

(e) what steps are taken by Government so far to promote Naturopathy and Yoga in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of the reply to (a) above.

(c) No proposal for setting up new colleges has been received in the Ministry.

(d) The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), New Delhi is the apex body for research in the Naturopathy and Yoga systems in the country. The CCRYN is implementing the following schemes at present:-